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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 MMO-01 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

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---------- 117367
R 090940Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6784
AMCONSUL NAHA
VOA KADENA AB OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1964

USIAC

VOA FOR WESTERDALE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:
SUBJ: VOA RELOCATION

REF: USIA 3632, 3367, TOKYO 1185, STATE 17734

1. USIS HAS BEEN INFORMED BY EIICHI KIMURA, COMPTROLLER FOR POLICY PLANNING IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE OF NHK, THAT NHK IS DEFINITELY NOT INTERESTED IN VOA FACILITIES IN OKINAWA.

2. KIMURA SAID NHK SENT TWO ENGINEERS TO SURVEY VOA TRANS-MITTER IN OKINAWA LAST SUMMER FOR POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF NHK'S SHORTWAVE OVERSEAS BROADACASTING TRANSMITTER IN IBARAKI PREFECTURE. THE ENGINEERS MADE A VERY DETAILED STUDY OF ALL VOA EQUIPMENT AND REPORTED TO NHK THAT (A) VOA SHORT-WAVE FACILITIES IN OKINAWA ARE OBSOLETE, AND (B) IT WOULD COST NHK TWO BILLION EIGHT HUNDRED MILLION YEN (EQUIVALENT TO $8,666,000), TO IMPRIVE THE FACILITIES
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UP TO STANDARD FOR NHK OVERSEAS BROADCASTS. EVEN WITH

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THAT EXPENDITURE, THE OKINAWA LOCATION WOULD NOT APPEAR TECHNICALLY SUPERIOR TO NHK'S PRESENT LOCATION IN IBARAKI. NHK HAS NO SUCH BUDGET, AND IN ANY CASE IS NOT ANXIOUS TO TAKE ON LEAVE PROBLEMS WITH OKINAWA LANDLORDS. NHK HAS THEREFOR DECIDED AGAINST POSSI-BILITY OF TAKING OVER VOA SHORTWAVE FACILITIES IN OKINAWA. NHK WOULD HAVE NO USE FOR RECIVER SITE, MEDIUM WAVE, OR HOUSING FACILITIES IN ANY CASE.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, FUJII, DIRETOR OF FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE HAD CONSULTED NHK ABOUT THEIR INTEREST IN OKINAWA VOA FACILITIES. HE REPORTED EXACTLY THE SAME ANSWER FROM NHK AS USIS HAD EARLIER RECEIVED. THERE IS NO HOPE TO FIND A JAPANESE USER FOR VOA, FUJII CONCLUDED.

4. USIS HAS ALSO CONTACTED JAPAN SHORTWAVE BROADCAST-ING COMPANY, SMALL COMMERCIAL BROADCASTER TO JAPANESE SHIPS AT SEA. THEY REPORT INTEREST ONLY IN POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF ONE 10,000 WATT SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTER FOR MOVE TO ANOTHER SITE IN NAHA. THERE APPEARS VERY LITTLE CHANCE THAT ANY DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL JAPANESE BROADCASTER WOULD FIND VOA MEDIUM WAVE ATTRACTIVE ECONOMICALLY FOR LOCAL BROADCASTS IN OKINAWA.

5. WE ARE PLEASED THAT VOA ENGINEERS HIPKINS AND TERVOLA ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT OKINAWA SHORTLY AND WILL STOP IN TOKYO FOR CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY AND USIS. WE ALSO RECOMMEND MEETING WITH JAPAN SHORTWAVE BROADCASTING COMPANY. VISITS TO COMMERCIAL BROAD-CASTERS IN OKINAWA ALSO MIGHT BE WOTHWHILE.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES VOA SHOULD MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY WITH PLANS TO DISMANTLE, REMOVE, OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF EQUIPMENT IN OKINAWA, SO THAT ORS MAY BE ENTIRELY REMOVED IN NO MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER MAY 1977 AT LATEST. GOJ CONSIDERS SETTLEMENT WITH LAND OWNERS TO BE UNITED STATES PROBLEM, AND WILL OFFER NO FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS FOR OUR EARLIER DEPARTURE. EMBASSY AND CONFIDENTIAL

USIS ARE STUDYING LAND AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE PROBLEMS AND WILL ADVISE FURTHER IN NEAR FUTURE. BUDGETARY PROVISION FOR LAND RESTORATION APPEARS ESSENTIAL IN FY 1977.

7. PRESUME EXERCISE IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN VOA TO IDENTIFY EQUIPMENT THAT COULD BE USED IN OTHER VOA RELAY STATIONS AND THAT WHICH IS NO LONGER USABLE.

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HOPE TO CONSULT WITH HIPKINS AND TERVOLA ON THIS.
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